

From: wgstelenet
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/15/02 10:35am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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January 14, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my support for the settlement with Microsoft. The settlement is in the best interests of the state, the American IT industry, and the economy. The recession has had a devastating effect on state budgets and the Federal budget. It is important that the technology industry be allowed to concentrate on business now.

The settlement imposes a broad series of restrictions on Microsoft. Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against computer makers who ship software that competes with anything in its Windows operating system. Also, Microsoft has agreed to license its Windows operating system products to the 20 largest computer makers on identical terms, including price. In addition, Microsoft has agreed to document and disclose for use by its competitors various interfaces that are internal to Windows' operating system products - a first in an antitrust settlement. This agreement will clearly benefit both consumers and the American IT industry as a whole.

This settlement is both fair and reasonable, and it will prevent future anticompetitive behavior. The sooner the technology sector gets back to business as usual, the better. Wasting more time and money on further litigation is a bad idea.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincere regards,

W. Shaw